

The Bethlehem Star



February 2021

We are a Christian community rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ that gathers to worship, learn and share, and reaches out to welcome, witness and serve.



Souper Bowl of Caring Open until February 28th

It's that time of year again! As we look forward to the big game this week we ask that you take some time to think of those in need. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a fantastic way to contribute to those most vulnerable at this time. We are asking for monetary donations for this great cause which will go to the Flathead Food Bank. You can make your donation at www.bethluth.org/give or you can bring a check to the church.

Ash Wednesday Drive-In Worship

Plan to attend Ash Wednesday worship at the BLC parking lot on Wednesday, February 17th at 6:30pm. You'll park in the lot, stay in your car, and join in the service on your car radio (more info to come). Pastor Scott, Marshall and others will lead worship from near the main doors to the church with all of the usual prayer, scripture, word, and singing that we enjoy on this special day. The imposition of ashes will be done while you remain in your own car. Bring the family or invite some friends to come their own car! What a wonderful way to get everyone together to celebrate and keep everyone safe. See you there!

Volunteering

If you are interested in being reader and/or cantor, please sign up for a Sunday via the website: <https://bethluth.org/volunteer-sign-up/pages/service-attendants>



Our Lenten Worship Schedule

Lenten Worship Schedule 2021

Ash Wednesday February 17

February 24

March 3, 10, 17, & 24

6:30 Worship

Please come and join us in-person
and on Facebook Live.

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Those who have been in our prayers this past month

Louise Gullick, Beverly Hubbard, Justin Goulet, Kathy Yonge, Ari Beck, Patti Jenkins, Sandy Karcarka, Patti Jenkins, Larry Vinson, Aaron Spotts, Bill Noud, Peter Burkett, Donna and Pack Tice and Karen Cowman.

Hymn or Song of the Month for February: Everlasting God

[Everlasting God](#)

This worship song was written by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley and first appeared on Brenton Brown's solo album by the same title in 2006. It was nominated for Worship Song of the Year at the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards in 2008. It has also been recorded by Chris Tomlin, Lincoln Brewster, and Jeremy Camp.

Brenton Brown is a worship leader most often associated with Vineyard Music UK. Brown was born in South Africa and left to study politics, philosophy, and theology on a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University. It was while he was at Oxford that he became involved with Vineyard Music.

Ken Riley was the lead singer for the band YFriday from 1994-2010. They began as the house band for a Youth for Christ event in the UK called WhyFriday? He now serves as a worship leader in Newcastle, UK.

This song is based on Isaiah 40, which is one of our readings on February 7th. The lines "You're the defender of the weak" and "You comfort those in need" connect to the Isaiah 58 reading for Ash Wednesday where we are reminded that outward observance of fasting is no substitute for acts of justice. The examples of acts of justice we are given in this reading are defending the weak and comforting those in need---freeing the oppressed, housing the homeless, clothing the naked, etc. In Isaiah 40, we hear that God defends the weak and comforts those in need and then in Isaiah 58 we catch a glimpse of specifically how God calls us to do the same. Keep those connections of scripture in mind as we sing this throughout the month of February. Listen at first, and join in the song as you feel you are able.

All Creation Sings

All Creation Sings is the new hymnal supplement to the ELW hymnal. It is about the same size and as the last supplement *With One Voice* (the blue book, 1995) which came out about half-way between the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (green book, 1978) and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (cranberry book, 2006). This resource has a great variety of music for worship. There are some incredible new texts revealing new things about our relation to God, our relation to each other, and what God calls us to do. Some are set to new hymn tunes. Others are set to familiar ones. There are several songs that emphasize our connection as the church around the world as well as many repetitive refrains from the Taizé and Iona communities for contemplative worship. There are also two new settings of the liturgy. I will be posting videos of a few new hymns and songs from this resource on the church's Facebook page each week.

Here is an excellent article from October's *Living Lutheran* that gives some insight into the process that led to this resource: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2020/10/all-creation-sings/>

Here is also a link to a playlist that is a sample of some of the music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xh9Zi-fl2Wc&list=PLXEX4IjjE20alagPyzwwkQEWYH2HDwBvgi>

BLC COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
 (Meeting conducted via Zoom)
 January 12, 2021

Treasurer's Report (Duane Anderson)

- December Income \$56,160; expenditures \$35,854.
- Ending balance December 31st \$51,186.

Music Ministry Report (Marshall Jones)

- Marshall is asking singers to come together in 'virtual' ensembles or where each person records their part on their own and sends it to Marshall who will edit it all together. The result can be shared in worship.
- Hymn histories are continuing on Tuesdays.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Scott Thompson)

- Recommends that worship to continue in 2 groups at least for next month or so.
- Working with Worship/Music Committee about Lent – Ash Wednesday – mid-week services.
- Strategic Planning Team will be commissioned at worship Jan. 24th.
- Over \$2300 raised for the 'Christmas Cow'!
- Upcoming dates include: Jan 31st - Confirmation Retreat; Feb. 2nd – Blood drive; Feb 17th – Ash Wednesday; Feb 21st– Confirmation Retreat; March 14th – Confirmation Retreat; April 4 – Easter.

Old Business

- Bill Pursell reported that repairs to cracks/bricks done at highest point, but due to weather, and crane availability was not able to finish. Will finish in April/May when weather is better. Building secure for now.
- Duane Anderson presented a draft of proposal to add Finance Committee to the By-Laws. Council asked to review and reassess at Feb. meeting. The proposal will be Presented to the congregation at the May Semi-Annual meeting.
- Current council members interested in serving another term need to let Paul know soon.

New Business

- A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve Planning Team members: Marianne Gielow (facilitator); Peggy Aagenes-Janzer; Karl Brohn; John Erfle; Larry Kaber; Kellie Nelson; Dan Pasche; Jana Pursell; Dale Saverud; Brook Schmidt; Debbie Snyder; and Pastor Scott Thompson.
- Motion made, seconded, approved to require wearing of masks by all people during time of worship and during times of social interaction before and after worship. Exceptions shall be for 1) those leading worship, only while leading worship; and 2) for the brief time of partaking in communion. Physical distancing shall also be facilitated by restricting seating to every other pew. These precautions shall be in place until such a time as the Church Council determines (based on CDC guidelines) that the COVID-19 transmission rate has sufficiently lowered in Flathead County.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

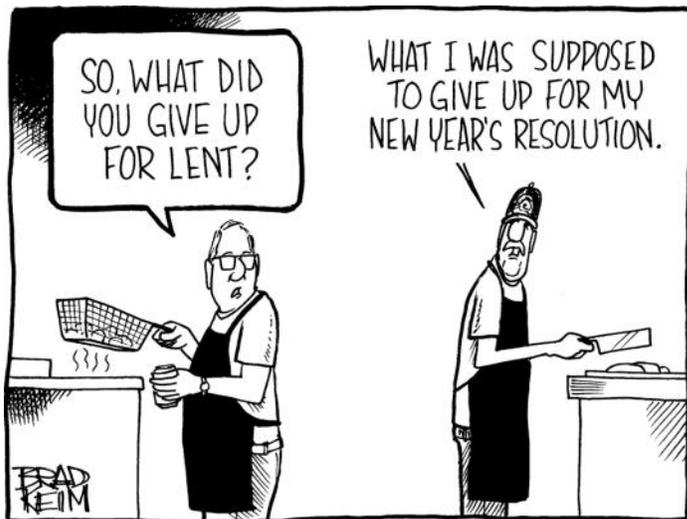
February Calendar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <u>1:15pm</u> Blood Drive <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom <u>6:30pm</u> Committees, TBD	3 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff Mtg	4	5	6
7 <u>9:00am</u> Worship A-M <u>9:00am</u> KOFI	8	9 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom <u>6:00pm</u> Council, Zoom	10 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff Mtg	11	12	13
14 <u>9:00am</u> Worship N-Z <u>9:00am</u> KOFI	15 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	16 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom	17 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff Mtg <u>6:30pm</u> Ash Wednesday Worship	18	19	20
21 <u>9:00am</u> Worship A-M <u>9:00am</u> KOFI <u>3:00pm</u> Confirmation Retreat, FLBC	22 <u>1:00pm</u> Women on the Go, Zoom	23 <u>4:30pm</u> Hymn Histories with Marshall via Zoom	24 <u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study via Zoom <u>9:00</u> Coffee with Pastor Scott via Zoom <u>10:00am</u> Staff Mtg <u>6:30pm</u> Lenten Worship	25	26	27
28 <u>9:00am</u> Worship N-Z <u>9:00am</u> KOFI						

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"Some religions don't eat meat on Friday because there's separation of church and steak."



News from the Strategic Planning Team

We met for the first time as a group along with Peggy Hahn – our guide from LEAD (more info at www.waytolead.org) – on Tuesday, Jan 26 via Zoom. We all had the opportunity to introduce ourselves to Peggy (and some of us to each other) by sharing our history at Bethlehem and one thing that we hope for our congregation as we begin this Planning work. Many around the “table” said that they want Bethlehem to reach out in new ways but also retain the richness of our tradition. The word change was offered more than once as both a good and necessary thing, but also kinda anxiety producing. Peggy helped us understand that our concerns and even fears were valid, but that God will lead us to new and exciting things just the same.



We heard God’s Word from Isaiah 43: The Lord is our God who brought us out of Egypt, through the waters, and set us on a journey to the Promised Land. God continues to do a new thing in us at BLC today. God says, “Do not continue to live in the past, but look forward to the new thing that God is doing – like plants that peek out of the cold ground in the spring, ready to blossom and grow.

Isaiah 43:16, 18-19

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth

Your team is eager to continue listening to God, to hear your voices within the congregation, and to listen in our community for how our neighbors are already serving God – ways that we can join the work that the Holy Spirit is already doing! We’ll set some goals and make some plans for our future, and then get to work making those dreams come true.

There’s much more to share as we continue this journey... watch for updates here and in church from time to time. We’re all in this together – we’ve passed through the waters of baptism – and we’re on our way to seeing the Promised Land that God has in store for us!

Submitted by Pastor Scott



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Electronic service requested



Doug	Anderson	2/1	John	Hendrickson	2/16
James	Burkett	2/1	Sonya	Hensley	2/16
Christian	Hensley	2/2	Layne	Matkovich	2/17
Heidi	Schmid	2/3	Lisa	Schlepp	2/17
Conner	Hagel	2/4	Linda	Erfle	2/17
Wayne	Saverud	2/5	Anne	Taylor	2/17
Nancy	Nelson	2/7	Chuck	Spain	2/17
Toth	Mendus	2/7	Emma	Lane	2/17
Dale	Shawhan	2/8	Hannah	Anderson	2/21
David	Donovan	2/9	Suzanne	Mattson	2/22
Dale	Saverud	2/10	Jana	Thompson	2/23
Lori	Adkins	2/13	Dawson	Smith	2/24
Jo Ann	Swenson	2/13	Becky	Croucher	2/24
Linda	Burkett	2/13	Florence	Louk	2/24
Eric	Anderson	2/14	Delphia	Blumenthal	2/25
Margaret	Jaumotte	2/15	Jeffery	Verworn	2/27
Helen	Working	2/15			

The deadline for
 the January
 newsletter is
 February 15th.
 Thank you!

Church Council

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Amber Brohn
 Duane Anderson

Treasurer:

Duane Anderson-
 acting

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Janet Veidt

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Christian Education

Linda Jones

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Peggy Aagenes-Janzer

Outreach:

Karen Fisher

Property:

Bill Pursell

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Worship and Music:

Judie Cundy

Youth:

Tony Nelson